

BY CAROL A JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

And the race is on. Who will be the first to construct a human-powered helicopter and win the grand prize of \$10,000? There is a small, but very determined group of students here at Cal Poly who believe they will be the winners — if they hurry.

"That is our one fear," said Steve Barry, an electrical engineering major who is working on the project. "We're sure it will fly, but there's that chance we may get beat." He said he knows of at least three other groups who are also competing for the prize.

## Poly races to build copter

American Helicopter Society, who is sponsoring the contest, are offering money to the first group who can build a human-powered helicopter that can hover for a full minute. Also, the helicopter must, at some point, clear a height of three meters.

### In the beginning

The project began the fall of 1981. While the students began designing it, Dr. William Patterson, the adviser for the project, secured a company willing to sponsor the helicopter, and donate \$25,000 worth of materials.

"Construction began about May of this year," said Ralph Johnson, who is in charge of the project for the summer. "Many people have worked up to 50 hours a week on it. Not including design 3,000 hours have easily been spent on labor." He added that a few nights' sleep, as well as grade points, were given up in order to meet deadlines.

The project has served as senior projects for 15 students, most of whom are mechanical or aeronautical engineering majors. Johnson said that each person worked on one specific aspect of the

helicopter design wrote a report, and submitted it as a senior project.

According to Larry Swenson, who is also helping with the project, the helicopter is "totally unconventional." It consists of two 50-foot rotating wings with propellers on each end. The wings, which weigh 45 pounds, spin slowly in a clockwise direction, parallel to the ground. The wing assemblage is joined at the center section where the pilot sits.

To get the helicopter off the ground, the pilot pedals a bicycle sprocket; the take-up reel spins and collects the 600 feet of string which spins the propeller shaft, providing the force to push the wings

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# Summer Mustang

Thursday, July 29, 1982

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

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## Officials fume about losing tax base

BY PHEBE FLETCHER

Staff Writer

San Luis Obispo government officials are still fuming about the city's tax base being eroded by the State of California as a result of the recent state budget battle.

The city lost \$360,000 in taxes to the state this year, down from a proposed \$890,000. The state will keep city and local agency assistance funds and a larger portion of the motor vehicle fees collected.

Though no city services were cut for next year in San Luis Obispo, the state's decision to take more of the traditional city taxes limits the amount of capital purchases cities can make. As a result, cities all over the state are mustering forces against future tax takeovers.

For the first time ever, the amount of money cities lost to the state threatened to exceed the gains from state programs and grants they receive. This has been dubbed by city officials across the state as a "reverse bail out."

### Reverse bail out

The reverse bail out occurred because the state now lacks a fund surplus. After Proposition 13 reduced property tax revenues, the state bailed out the cities with the budget surplus. But now that the surplus is gone "the state has been looking to cities, counties and schools for money. Proposition 13 is not (directly) affecting the state," said Paul Floyd, deputy county auditor-controller. "The state is doing this on its own."

Though no cuts were made in city services, San Luis Obispo Finance Director Rudy Muravez wasn't relieved.

ed. He is angered the state is withholding \$55,000 in city and local agency assistance funds and keeping \$305,000 in motor vehicle registration fees.

"Relieved, No." It's like after you hit your head against a stone wall. Although you are alright, you are not relieved because it doesn't stop hurting," said Muravez.

### Punch absorbed

San Luis was prepared to absorb the punch of the lower tax revenues however. Officials feared that the state would not pass a balanced budget this July. This would have activated the AB-8 deflator clause which mandates the AB-8 bail out program to eliminate should the state run out of funds. Muravez said the deflator would have cost the city three times more than it is doing to the state now. But by the time the state managed to balance its budget in July, city department in San Luis Obispo had already made contingency plans in the form of a 4 percent emergency budget cutback. Out of a city budget of \$18 million, "we could have lost \$890,000. Instead we lost \$360,000," said Muravez. Fortunately the city had some unexpected surpluses from last year's budget. Other cities were not so lucky.

### Revenue sharing

In addition to the tax takeovers, the state has "combined licenses with taxing," said Muravez. It has done this by increasing its role in general revenue sharing. Under revenue sharing, the government asks for money in the form of tax collections and then redistributes it to other localities. The state did this when it kept more of the motor vehicles fee to be used to maintain and construct roadways.

Though general revenue sharing has long been an accepted practice, the state added a new twist—it is simply pocketing more of the money, said Muravez, to build up the state surplus.

City officials from San Luis Obispo feel the state actions are brazen in light of the fact that while the city cooperated with the state to equalize revenue benefits around the state, the revenue money has been used to set the state's financial house in order.

To save money the state has also mandated cities offer certain programs then denies the project will incur any costs.

The League of California Cities is engaged in writing legislation to prevent the state government from mandating programs without supplying the necessary funds. They also seek to keep the cities' tax revenue base from being eroded away by the state sea. There is also a citizens' lobby and a core of city officials all over the state fighting to hold on to their tax revenues.

"The fighters may not get what they want without long legal court battles. Like any government process, it is a slow process, and we have to keep our heads financially during it," Muravez said. The cities feel threatened, he added.

As with Reagan's New Federalism, the state may take the same approach—let a little dribble down to cities and counties as if saying, "once my house is in order, then I'll let you in (on some)," said Bill Sheldon, Arroyo Grande City Administrator.

Sheldon sees the state's actions as stemming from poor management.

Whatever the cause, there are those on the local levels who want to stop it.



## Rich Little gives hell to the chief

BY TOM JOHNSON

Editor

It was a scenario which had been repeated often.

As a scratchy rendition of "Hail to the Chief" squeaked from a portable phonograph, two Secret Servicemen stalked into the press conference room, scanning the gallery of journalists for weapons. They were followed by a man whose slow, but bouncy gait and glittering eyes immediately betrayed his identity: President Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan stepped spritely up to the lectern and adjusted the microphone. A reporter stood up and fired a question: What will you do to stimulate the economy?

The president stared perplexingly down at the

lectern then answered in a soft, grandfatherly voice, "Well, I'll put a nude picture of Bo Derek on the 20 dollar bill."

Little captured the voice, the mannerisms and subtle nuances of Ronald Reagan. Little's Reagan, like the genuine article, bobbed his head and stared down thoughtfully before answering a barrage of questions with Reagan's familiar tag, "Well..."

Reagan (ala Little) fielded questions of how to solve the energy shortage (Develop a gasoline from animal waste guaranteed to eliminate syphoning) to assessing his term as president ("Jimmy Carter had Bill to make him look like an ass. I'm going to do it all by myself")—all in the patient, kindly voice which characterizes Reagan.

Please see page 6



Summer Mustang—Vern Ahrendse

America may have Richard Nixon to kick around some more. With arms outstretched and a scowl on his face, Nixon assured he would be back in the White House soon. If you think Rich Little does a good Truman Capote (above) wait until you see President Reagan's impersonation.



# Dietary 'wonder drug' receives mixed reviews

BY ANNE FRENCH

Staff Writer

The new weight loss wonder drug may not be as wonderful as its supporters claim, according to many researchers and nutritionists.

This summer's dieting sensation is the Legume Protein Concentrate, otherwise known as the Alpha Amylase inhibitor or "starch blocker." "Starch blocker," sold under numerous brand names, recently began appearing in health food stores and pharmacies to quickly become the latest diet mania.

The blockers contain extract of kidney bean or other beans that inhibit production of intestinal enzymes that aid starch digestion. Therefore, much of the consumed starch passes through the body unabsorbed. Due to lack of clinical investigation, the starch inhibitor is receiving mixed reviews.

## Dietary breakthrough

The original starch blockers were test-marketed in this country in 1981 by Dr. J. John Marshall under the name "Carbolite", following a 12-year study. The product was touted a "dietary breakthrough" and became the subject of talk shows such as Phil Donahue.

Suddenly people started demanding the item. Places such as "Foods For the Family" (F3) located in the Creamery, started carrying "Amyl-Lite" and "Alpha-Slim." Worker Dennis Finucan guessed about 15 percent of their customers were purchasing it.

But July 1 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration declared the product an "unapproved new drug" and began to take measures to remove them from the market until their safety and effectiveness are proven. The agency told more than 100 starch blocking distributors and producers they must discontinue their marketing and provide information regarding how they manufacture and distribute the drug.

So there are now less, if any, of the product on the shelves. "People come in and stock up on it because they're afraid it's going to disappear. It's a kind of panic right now," said F3 worker Shelly Stevens.

## Effects unknown

The Health Center's director of nursing voiced apprehension concerning the drug's safety. "We don't know the long-term effects," said Louanna Corey, Health Center pharmacist Daryl Bennet shared her sentiments. "I think the stuff is dangerous. To someone with a certain condition, the effects could be catastrophic."

Cal Poly nutritionist Mary Pedersen said people react in one of two ways when they take the drug. Some feel no change while others spend half the day in the bathroom (due to resulting gas, cramping, and diarrhea). Health care practitioners agreed the product may induce harmful side-effects such as ketosis (fat oxidized for energy) or acidosis (high blood acidity). They expressed concern that residual toxins could be created during processing of the drug.

Nutritionist Nathan Pritikin said the pills increase the risk of heart disease, breast cancer, cancer of the prostate and can affect blood clotting. "It's a hoax."

A warning was also issued by H. Swenson.

Ph.D., University of California Extension nutritionist. "It has yet to be verified that they (starch blockers) are either safe or effective for weight control."

Even the original starch blocking enthusiast J. John Marshall conceded the product is no dieter's panacea. "It is not a replacement for proper nutrition and proper exercise."

## Suspect enters innocent plea

The suspect arrested last week for the alleged attack on a Cal Poly woman student was arraigned Monday in San Luis Obispo Municipal Court.

Frank David Becerra, 22, pleaded not guilty to felony charges that he attempted to kidnap and rape a young woman who was walking near Mustang Stadium last Tuesday around 6 p.m.

Two Cal Poly football players, Steve Gibson and Ken Copas heard the screams of the woman and rushed to her aid. The suspect allegedly threatened Gibson and Copas with a knife. Gibson managed to knock the knife from the suspect's hand and subdued him until university police arrived.

The suspect is being held in the County Jail under \$50,000 bond. Bail originally was set at \$10,000 but due to the seriousness of the crime, said investigator Wayne Hall, police and the District Attorney's office petitioned the court for an increase.

Becerra will undergo a preliminary hearing August 5 to determine whether there is enough evidence in the case to justify the felony charge.

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# Aromas lure noses into Ye Olde Candy Shoppe

BY VALERIE BRICKMAN

Staff Writer

It happens to you everytime you are anywhere near Higuera Street. A sweet aroma overwhelms you as your nose guides you to the doorway of Ye Olde Candy Shoppe where the intoxicating smell of the caramel corn lures you in.

Ye Olde Candy Shoppe, located at 852 Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo, is not simply child's paradise. The store has something for both young and old, girl or guy, candy lover or dieter.

The store, owned by Mell and Norma McMichael, started 20 years ago as part of a franchise which was called Karamel Korn. After the chain disbanded 10 years later, it was given its present name. The McMichaels have been the proud owners for the last three years. Though it originally sold nothing but caramel corn, the McMichaels can now boast their menu has expanded significantly since then.

## Friendly Habit

The store possesses such a friendly atmosphere that the McMichaels have some customers who have made the store a habit for years.

"We have a two-way communication with our customers; they tell us what they like and what they don't like which gives us an idea of how we are doing," Norma said.

Ye Old Candy Shoppe has something for every sweet tooth. The store features a line of Shaws chocolates, the favorite, being caramel, according to Norma. There are several kinds of chewy candies such as gummy cinnamon bears and jelly bellies (Reagan's treats) which range in flavors from watermelon to strawberry daquiri and everyone's favorite: candy corn and licorice. There are different kinds of

peanuts and a selection of coffee cordials.

Not all the candy is bought through distributors. Ye Olde Candy Shoppe also specializes in four homemade treats. In addition to the original caramel corn, the McMichaels have added peanut corn which is made with more butter, vanilla and peanuts to enhance its flavor. The second specialty is the nutty corn which is made from three nuts: almonds, pecans and cashews. The shop also specializes in peanut brittle which is guaranteed to be the best you have ever tasted, said Norma. Lastly, the store is known for its English toffee.

## Hot seller

The caramel corn sells so fast there is always a fresh batch brewing, said Norma.

The confection smells so good that Norma has been tempted to bring in a tape recorder to record the comments of the customers.

"They (the customers) say it smells so good in here, they ask if you can get fat just by sniffing," Norma said.

"People are always asking how we can work in here and not get fat," said employee Kathy Kahn.

The McMichaels introduced the chocolate and oatmeal chip cookies, which are made fresh everyday and come in two sizes. Real butter and eggs are included in the recipe to give them a distinct flavor which keeps bringing the customers back for more.

There is also sugarless hard and chocolate candies for those who want that sweet taste but not the calories. New this summer is a line of trail mixes.

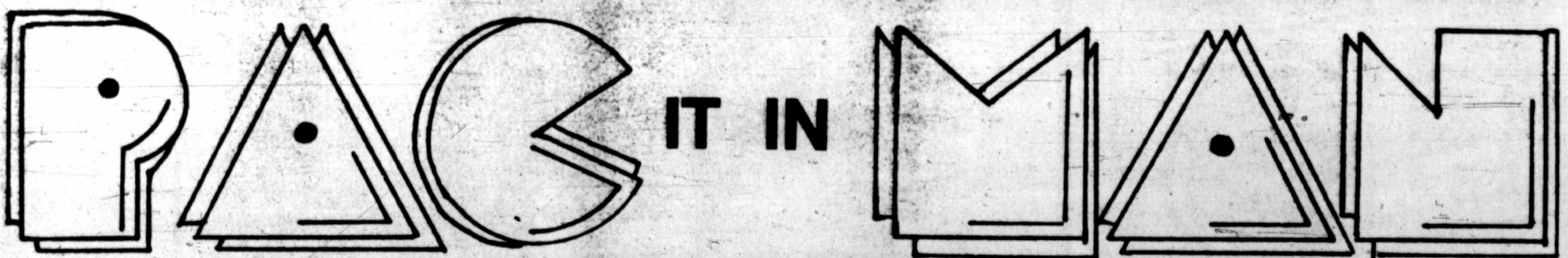
Aside from the sweets, there are hot dogs, chips, and both cold and hot drinks.

Please see page 6



Owner Norma McMichael always attracts a flock of noses when she brews a batch of peanut corn.

Summer Mustang—Valerie Brickman



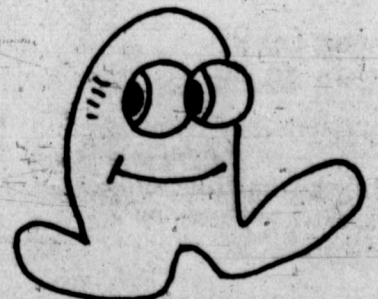
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# Engineers attempt to get project off ground

From page 1

viding the force to push the wings around. The string is not a continuous loop; therefore, the helicopter can only maintain two to three minutes of "flying" time.

## Space age copter

The helicopter is 100 feet in diameter and weighs 255 pounds with the pilot. It is constructed primarily of aluminum, fiberglass, wood, plastic, and what Swenson calls "space age materials" such as teflon, carbon graphite and kevlar, which is used in bullet proof vests.

Peter Kuykendall, a bicyclist, was chosen the "pilot" for the invention because of his "superhuman strength," according to Johnson. He said a number of students were tested for horse power, and Kuykendall was picked for the job.

If all goes well, the helicopter should work the next time it is tested, which will be in a few weeks, according to Barry.

"We've tried three times already without success,

but each time we learn more," said Johnson. "We keep working out bugs. It's like a refining process; something breaks each time, but we have continued to be optimistic about it."

The students are quite confident their helicopter will fly. Johnson said the entire crew will probably have a "big bash" when the project is completed. He said he is happy he has had the experience of working with other students toward a common goal, communicating ideas, and meeting deadlines.

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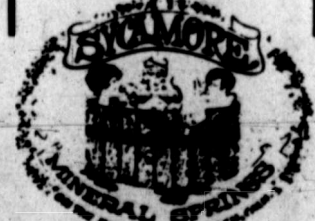
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# MOZART

BY JENNIFER JOSEPH  
Staff Writer

The 1982 Mozart Festival will open August 2 and feature a variety of musical performances and activities during the week-long celebration.

At noon each weekday during the festival, free performances will be held in Mission Plaza. Brass concerts, folkdancing, poetry readings and Monday, August 2

Noon, Opening Ceremony. Mission Plaza, San Luis Obispo.  
8:15 p.m., Donor's Night. Robert Commanday, Music Critic, San Francisco Chronicle, Cal Poly Theatre.

## Tuesday, August 3

8:15 p.m., Opening Concert by Jean Barr and Armen Guzelimian, Cal Poly Theatre.  
Mozart, Sonata in D major, K. 488/Debussy, Balade/Lutoslawski, Variations on a theme by Paganini/Brahms, Variations on a theme of Haydn, Op. 56b/Ravel, La Valse-Choreographic Poem  
9:00 p.m., Mission San Miguel Candlelight Concert, la Corte Musical.  
A performance of the 14th century Livre Vermell (the "Red Book"), capturing the color and flavor of Medieval music, dance and theatre.

## Wednesday, August 4

8:15 p.m., Orchestra Concert, Cal Poly Theatre.  
Mozart, Overture to Die Entführung aus dem Serail, K. 384/Mozart, March in D major, K. 408, Nr. 2/Mozart, Symphony No. 35 in D major, K. 385 ("Haffner")/Mozart, Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat major, K. 482/Richard Goode, soloist.

8:15 p.m., la Corte Musical in a cabaret performance of "The Book of Good Love," Cambria Pines Lodge.

A truly unique experience in musical theatre. Audiences are delighted with this mischievous blend of Medieval music and dance which tells a story guaranteed to amuse.

## Thursday, August 5

3:00 p.m., Ear Opener Concert, Cal Poly Theatre.  
An entertaining concert, designed by Gary Lamprecht, for children of all ages.

8:15 p.m., la Corte Musical, Cal Poly Theatre. "Book of Good Love"

8:15 p.m., Chamber Music Recital, Kronos String Quartet, First United Methodist Church, Arroyo Grande.  
Benshoof, Traveling Music/Shostakovich, String Quartet No. 3/Constanten, 3 Pieces/Mozart, String Quartet in D major, K. 499.

Children of the Civic Ballet are scheduled.

The festival will offer a wide range of works by Mozart and other classical composers.

The San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet will debut music by contemporary composer, Tom Constanten.

Two well-known piano soloists, Richard Goode and Jerome Lowenthal

are featured performers for several recitals and concerts during the week.

The opening concert on Tuesday, August 3 will present the Jean Barr and Armen Guzelimian piano duo. Both are well-known chamber musicians who often perform together.

A special Ear Opener concert will be presented on Thursday, August 5 in the Cal Poly Theatre. The program was

designed by conductor, Gary Lamprecht, director of the San Luis Vocal Arts Ensemble.

The Ear Opener will boast a variety of musical presentations in which Lamprecht will suggest what the audience should be aware of when listening to a classical concert. Tickets for the performance are \$2.00.

## Friday, August 6

3:00 p.m., Chamber Concert by members of the Mozart Festival Singers and Orchestra, Cal Poly Theatre.  
Bach, Cantata No. 140 ("Wachet auf")/Stravinsky, Octet for Wind Instruments/Brahms, Liebeslieder Waltzes.

8:15 p.m., Piano Recital by Richard Goode, Cal Poly Theatre. Works by Schubert, Schumann, Perle and Mozart.

## 8:15 p.m., Mission Concert, Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa.

Mozart, Concerto in B-Flat major for Bassoon, K. 191, Greg Barber, soloist/Brahms, Variations on a Theme of Haydn/Mozart, Alma dei creatoris, K. 277/Haydn, "Theresienmesse", Kaaren Herr-Erickson, soprano; Mary Heyler, alto; Paul Johnson, tenor; Peter Atherton, bass; Timothy Mount conducting the Festival Singers and Orchestra.

8:15 p.m., Chamber Music Recital, Kronos String Quartet, Cambria Veterans' Memorial Building.  
Same program as Thursday's performance except Ligeti's String Quartet No. 1 in place of Shostakovich Quartet.

## Saturday, August 7

3:00 p.m., Chamber Concert, Cal Poly Theatre.  
Mozart, Concerto in F major for Three Pianos, K. 242/Mozart, Fugue in C minor for two pianofortes, K. 426/Bach, Concerto in D minor for Three Harpsichords/Ronald V. Ratcliffe, James Bonn and Leslie Tung, soloists.

8:15 p.m., Repeat of Mission Concert.

8:15 p.m., Recital of works for two harpsichords performed by Ronald V. Ratcliffe and James Bonn, Trinity United Methodist Church, Los Osos.  
J.S. Bach, Sonata in E minor/J.S. Bach, Sonata in G major/Mozart, Fugue in C minor/Couperin, Pieces en Concert.

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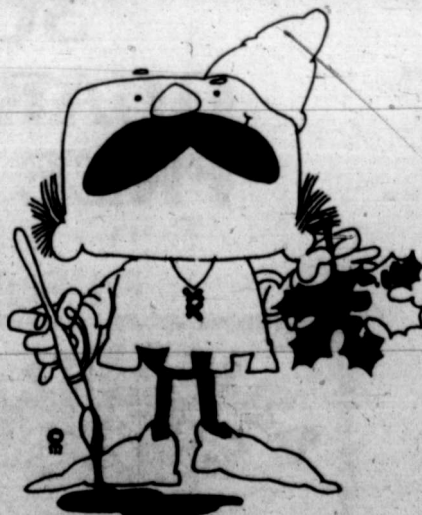
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## DEADLINE EXTENDED



Cross currents, the fiction and poetry section of the Back-To-School issue of the Mustang Daily is being extended until August 15. Check flyers posted on campus for sales, or call Tom at Ex. 1144.



(Right) Lisa Edelstein before she started the Diet Center Program and (above) less than 8 months later, after reaching her ideal weight

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# School competition dominates Orient

BY CAROLINE SMITH

Staff Writer

Students who complain that the workload is too heavy in American high schools and colleges should think twice about attending school in either Taiwan or Japan.

Cal Poly President Warren Baker, who recently returned from a month long cultural and educational mission to Japan and the Republic Of China, said Japanese and Taiwanese students must pass a rigorous exam before they can be considered for college.

The actual trip taken by the President and his wife Carly was a combination of two separate invitations to the Far East. Baker was one of five college presidents in the United States to be invited to head up an educational mission to Taiwan by the Republic of China through the American Association of

*"Some of the science and math courses taken in high school are equal to one or two years of college level prep in some areas of study in the United States."*

Warren Baker

State Universities. Because the United States does not recognize Taiwan, Baker traveled under the National Relations Act with Taiwan, an act of Congress which provides for the protection of Taiwan.

The invitation to Japan came from Educational Development International (EDI) and the Pacific English Language Institute, a program which brings Japanese students to Cal Poly to take classes in English. Baker explained that the purpose of EDI is to "create better understanding of people of various nations, particularly a better understanding of the United States by Japan."

The invitations culminated in the President's trip which began on June 12. A typical day usually began before 8 a.m. and would generally finish with dinner and receptions until 10 p.m. Much of the days were spent visiting universities, high schools, and industries—not to mention the time spent traveling.

During his travels, President Baker found that the Japanese and Taiwanese universities shared a similar approach to education.

## Japan dance show today

The Spanish style Mission Plaza will take on a festive Oriental atmosphere tonight as visiting Japanese students will present a show featuring native dances.

Three hundred Japanese students, dressed in kimonos and other Japanese garb, will demonstrate native dances from 7 to 9 p.m. No admission will be charged and the public is invited to the event which is billed as Friendship Night.

The 300 students are part of the Educational Development International and the Pacific English Language Institute, a program which brings Japanese students to Cal Poly and other universities to study the English language.

The students are housed at Tropicana Village apartments and will be in San Luis Obispo for the summer. They are interested in meeting Cal Poly students.

According to Baker, this Japanese-Taiwanese approach to education involves a "more rigorous course of study" for high school students and for these students "more time is involved in studies." This is due to the fact that high school students must choose the university they wish to attend and also their course of study through competition. Once the student has entered a university, it is practically impossible to change majors or to transfer schools.

However, the use of these competitive exams has caused some problems. It has been found that students don't work extremely hard the first two years or more at the university, a fact attributed to burn out.

"The students have exhausted themselves in rigorous high school courses," said Baker. "Some of the science and math courses taken in high school are equal to one to two years of college level prep in some areas of study in the United States."

Baker went on to explain that these Japanese high school students have tutors and take additional classes on Saturdays in order to be successful in the competitive exams.

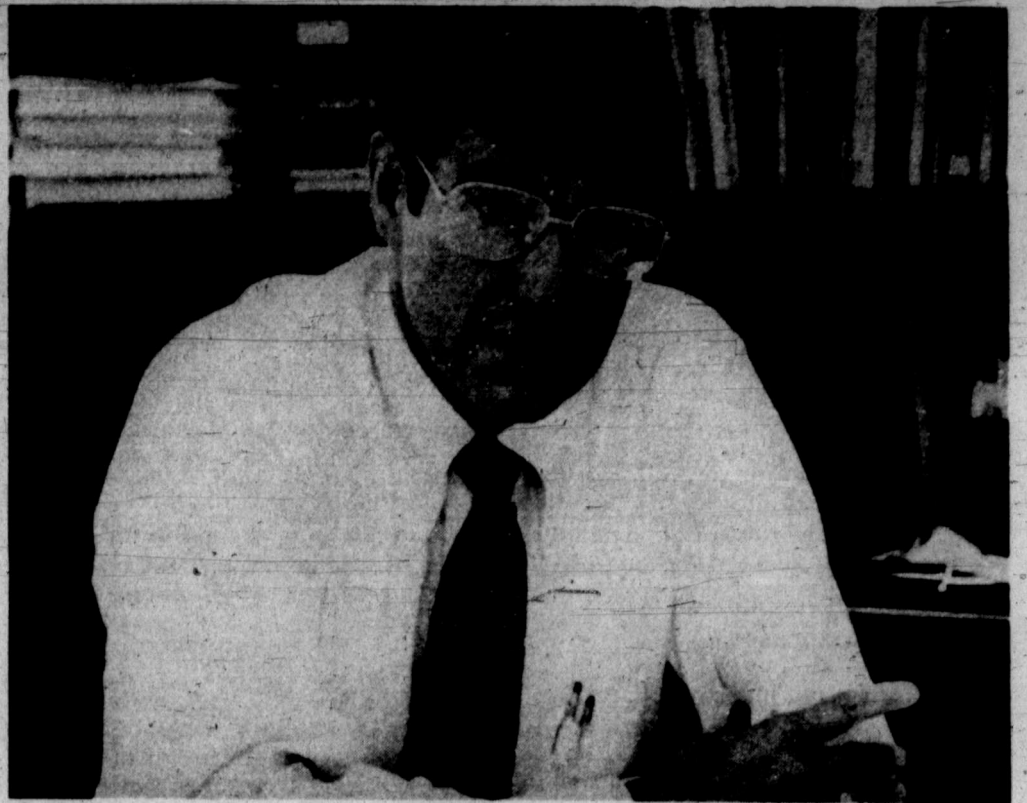
"The key step is being admitted to the university of one's choice," commented Baker. "Then it is assumed that success will be guaranteed from there." However, it is at this point that school burn out is most likely to occur.

As far as bringing any of these educational techniques to Cal Poly, Baker stated, "Our system is so different from the Japanese and Taiwanese systems that there's not much that can be applied to high education in the United States."

While traveling, the Bakers stayed in both hotels and in the homes of students or faculty who had been at Cal Poly. The only sight-seeing was done while coming and going between appointments.

As far as the language barrier, President Baker explained, "We could converse with everyone we met. My Japanese is not very good but I picked up enough of it to get by with a conversation. Besides, most people understood some English."

"I was extremely touched by the personal friendliness and generosity of the Japanese people. They are very charming and delightful," Baker commented.



Summer Mustang—Leslie Wink

Cal Poly President Warren Baker said Japanese and Taiwanese students must devote more time to their studies than Americans if they expect to be admitted to a university

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## All alone

After a year of trying to convert the wilderness areas he was sworn to protect into industrial playgrounds, Secretary of the Interior James Watt has amply proven the old adage that it is lonely at the top. But recent oil gas leasing decision may have put Watt beyond lonely to simply alone.

From the man who brought your promises to streamline "cumbersome" strip mining regulations and to turn over pristine forests to timber interests, comes a plan to open up nearly the entire U.S. coastline—including all of California—to oil and gas exploratory drilling. Predictably, the decision has caused more people to call for Watt's hide than call his name in praise.

Conservationists, not surprisingly, have deplored the decision. They mourn the inevitable damage oil spills will cause to the fragile marine environment they shutter at the image of once majestic ducks being washed up dead on beaches, their bodies defiled by the deadly black goo, and the thought of rare seal life being eliminated completely. The decision has also drawn the ire of politicians who fear what offshore oil drilling could do to their state's fishing and tourist industries.

Thus California and Alaska have joined a collection of environmental groups in filing suit against Watt's exploration schedule.

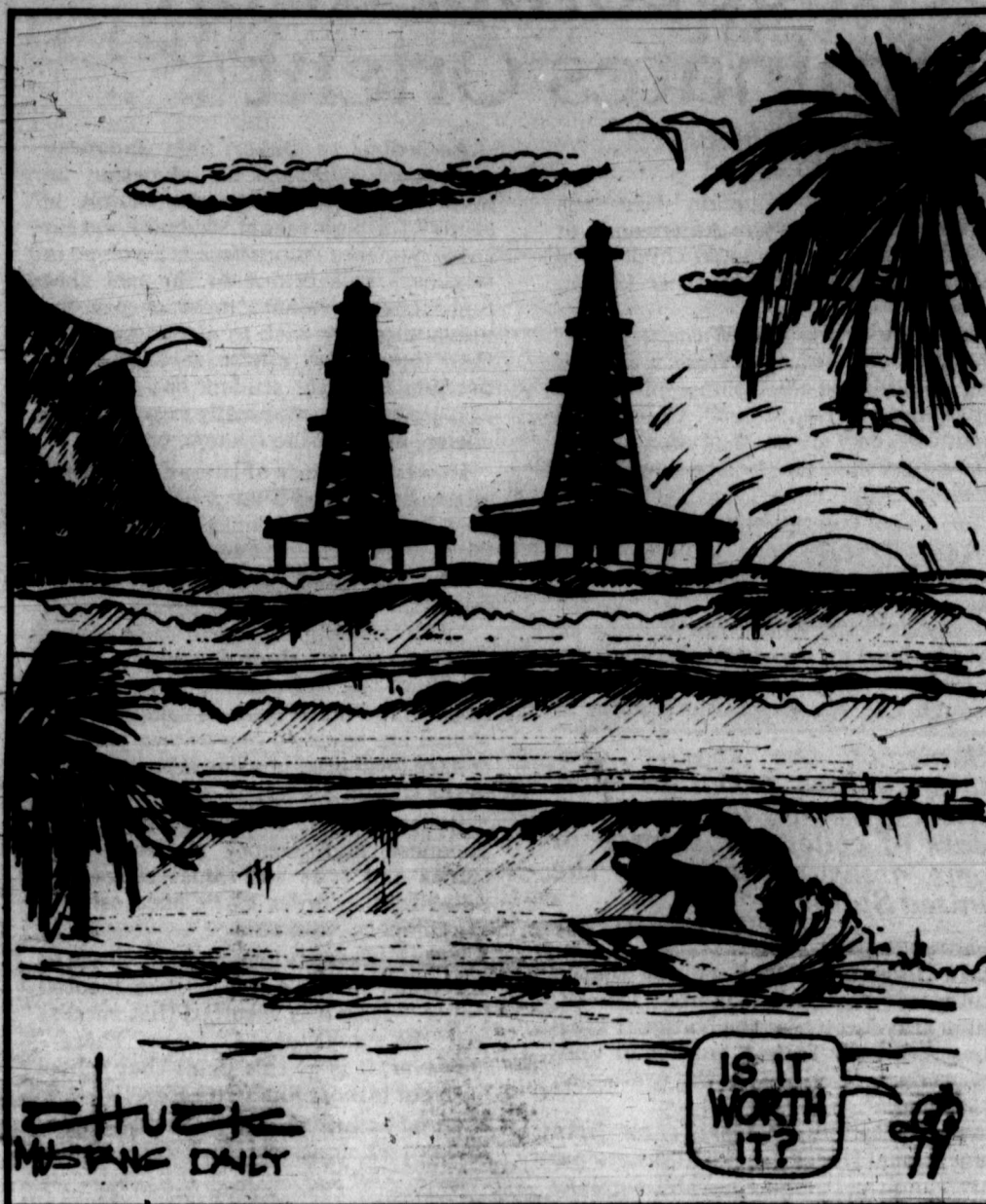
The preservationists and politicians may find they have a most unlikely ally—the oil companies themselves. The oil companies do not object to the music Watt is playing on his jukebox, but simply the speed he is playing them; the records should be played at 33 rpms and not 78. Watt is proposing that 1 billion acres be leased to oil companies for exploration during the next five years. Expanding that much in such a short period of time would severely tax the oil company's ability to provide data to make bids on the tracts, drilling rigs, manpower and, more importantly, capital. Atlantic Richfield told a reporter at *Business Week* last year that "drastic changes (in lease site-drillings) can upset capital, equipment and manpower planning efforts of many firms including our own."

Even many oil companies, then, prefer that offshore drilling tracts be leased at a slower rate than Watt proposes.

Watt also picked a peculiar time to issue his exploration schedule. Demand for petroleum has been reduced because the country is conserving energy, producing a glut in the oil market. Why would oil companies want to produce oil at a time when supply is up, but demand is down?

Watt has claimed that more offshore sites must be opened if this country can ever expect to become energy self-sufficient. Statistics counted Watt's claims. The Energy Action Education Foundation studied 20 oil companies and found that from 1976-1980 these organizations had staked claims to 43 percent more undeveloped oil and gas tracts than they had in the preceding years. Yet the amount of acreage which had been developed over that same four-year period had increased only 2.5 percent. The oil companies, then, don't need to comb new areas along the coastline for new oil deposits; they haven't explored their own backyards yet.

James Watt is asking the American Public to peacefully accept the biggest land grab in this nation's history. Americans must join those states and environmental groups in voiding their vehement objections to Watt's irresponsible stewardship of this nation's resources. The public must show Watt how alone he really is on this issue.



### The Last Word:

## Death penalty

Two women I know of went to work at Atascadero State Hospital a few years ago with the opinion that the death penalty was evil.

A friend tells me that after a year or so of dealing with two, three, even four-time murderers—people who committed unspeakably violent sex crimes upon their victims—the two women changed their minds about the death penalty. They had come to form the opinion that for some criminals, death was the only fair—indeed, merciful—punishment.

Of course, I support the death penalty. My reasons are cold and calculated, and are offensive to most people who claim humanitarian principles.

It is one of those cruel wonders of nature that wild animals will often kill or leave to die sick members of their species, humans abhor this idea, a cat who has a litter of diseased kittens will abandon them.

I can just see the indignant gleam in my "humanitarian" opponent's eye, who nobly says, "But we are human beings, not animals."

That's true to a point—an idealistic point at that. But when we're dealing with social aberrants such as the ones who are being "rehabilitated," "treated and released" at the Atascadero State Hospital, it is obvious their illnesses are not easily—if ever—cured.

How many innocent people fall victim to the gruesome acts of those sex offenders who the hospital must, by

reasons of space alone, eventually declare well enough to deal normally with society?

Humanitarianism is a fine thing, but in this case it lacks a realistic appraisal of the situation—which is that the return rate of such sex offenders and murderers shows that nothing short of life imprisonment (an unrealistic punishment in itself!) or death will suffice to keep society safe from these people.

What if an innocent man is convicted and put to death? the humanitarian argues.

My answer is two-fold. First, life is obviously a gamble. Even the most dull, inactive person takes a chance with his life every day.

Second, the chances of convicting an innocent man are minimal compared to the probability that a two-time murderer pronounced "fit to deal with society" and released will snap his psychological tightwire and murder someone else. Frankly, I think it's worth the chance.

We need the death penalty. It's time we accepted the fact, unchanged since the beginning of history, that life is expendable.

To waste a life is a sin. But to save a worthless and dangerous life at the expense of several valuable, useful lives is a worse sin.

Author Jan Munro is a senior history major and Mustang Daily staff writer.

## Mustang Daily

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